

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

NOVEMBER 13, 1906

The meeting of Club was called to order by President Rusby at 8:15 o'clock, at the American Museum of Natural History. Thirteen persons were present.

After the minutes for October 31 were read and approved, the name of Dr. H. E. Hasse, of Santa Monica, California, was proposed for membership.

The resignation of Mrs. Ada Watterson Yerkes, Cambridge, Mass., was read and accepted. On motion the secretary cast the vote of the club electing Dr. H. E. Hasse to membership.

The resignation of Dr. N. L. Britton, as chairman of the program committee, was read and accepted, and the chairman appointed Dr. M. A. Howe as chairman of that committee. The other members are Professor L. M. Underwood and Mrs. E. G. Britton.

The following scientific program was presented :

"Account of a Collecting Trip in the Adirondacks and in the Catskill Mountains," by Dr. Per Axel Rydberg. Dr. Rydberg gave an interesting account of botanical field studies and collecting in the regions mentioned, giving special attention to the blackberries. The talk was richly illustrated by herbarium specimens collected on the trip.

Dr. Augustine Henry, of London, who was visiting New York, gave a very interesting account of some features of the flora of China, pointing out its richness and great diversity, which are correlated with diversity of topography and climate, and emphasizing both the slight amount of collecting that has as yet been done there and the important results to be obtained by ecological and systematic studies in that region. As an illustration he called attention to the fact that several genera recorded in existing manuals as monotypic are known to be represented in China by several distinct species.

Adjournment was at 10 o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NOVEMBER 28, 1906

The Club met at the museum building of the New York Botanical Garden, at 3:30 p. m. In the absence of President Rusby, Dr. L. H. Lighthipe was called to the chair. Twenty-two persons were in attendance.

The minutes for November 13 were read and approved, and the following names were presented for membership :

Ulysses O. Cox, Terre Haute, Ind.

Harold W. Pretz, 368 Union St., Allentown, Pa.

The amendment to Article XIV of the Constitution relating to annual dues, presented at the regular meeting of the Club on October 31 and published in the weekly Bulletin of the New York Academy of Sciences and Affiliated Societies for November 19, 1906, came up for discussion. After a brief discussion it was voted to lay the motion on the table.

The secretary read a communication to the president of the Club from the member for botany of the committee of the New York Academy of Sciences appointed to arrange for an exhibit to be held at the American Museum of Natural History, on December 28 and 29, to illustrate recent advancement in different departments of science. The Club was invited to send material for the exhibit. On motion the secretary was appointed to arrange for the Club's participation in the exhibit.

On motion it was voted to omit the second regular December meeting of the Club which would fall on the 26th of the month.

The following scientific program was presented : "Some Costa Rican Orchids," by Mr. George V. Nash.

The speaker referred to the little-known country of Costa Rica and the desirability of securing material from there. Mr. Wm. R. Maxon, of the United States National Museum, during the early part of the year, made an exploration in this region in the interests of the New York Botanical Garden and brought back with him not only a valuable collection of herbarium material but also a large collection of living plants, representing mainly the orchid, fern, bromeliad, and cactus families. This material, owing to the care taken by Mr. Maxon in collecting and packing it, arrived in excellent condition. A great many orchids

were among the lot, and several of these have already flowered, revealing new and interesting species. Living material is especially desirable in this family of plants, as the color and shape of the flowers play a large part in their classification, and these characters are difficult to determine from dried material. The genera *Pleurothallis*, *Elleanthus*, and *Zygostates*, have each already yielded one species new to science. The new species of *Zygostates* is a particularly interesting discovery, as it not only proves to be a species hitherto unknown but also brings into the flora of North America a genus known formerly only from Brazil and Peru. Among other things worthy of note are : *Warscewiczella Wendlandi discolor*, originally described and known only from Costa Rica ; *Maxillaria iridifolia*, found throughout tropical America but certainly differing much in general appearance from the other members of the genus ; and *Cynoches Rossianum*, originally described from a plant that flowered in cultivation in the Garden of Mr. Ross, at Florence, Italy, in 1889. The origin of this plant was unknown, and it is now interesting to have its home revealed by this collection of Mr. Maxon's. The remarks were illustrated with living plants of the species referred to, supplemented with herbarium specimens, drawings, and material preserved in formalin.

"The Sedges of Jamaica," by Dr. N. L. Britton.

Dr. Britton exhibited specimens of all species of Cyperaceae known to occur on the island of Jamaica, including several species new to that island, collected by Professor Underwood or by himself during a visit to Jamaica in the month of September. He remarked on the distribution of many of these species and on the fact that a number of them are found in the West Indies, only in Jamaica, their further distribution being in Central and South America. This distribution of these sedges is paralleled by that of a considerable number of species in other families, so that the South American relationship of the Jamaica flora is more intimate than that of Cuba, Hayti, or Porto Rico, and it is suspected that this may be an indication of a former land connection between Jamaica and the continent to the west or southwest. Dr. Britton's paper included a complete enumeration of the species now

known, together with diagnostic keys for their determination, and as much of their synonymy as relates to Jamaican records. No undescribed species were found, but the collections made by recent explorers added a number to those recorded by Mr. Clarke in his monograph of the West Indian Cyperaceae, published in the second volume of Professor Urban's "*Symbolae Antillanae*."

"Exhibition of Photomicrographs of North American Woods," by Dr. C. Stuart Gager.

Numerous specimens were shown from a collection of photomicrographs of cross-sections of North American woods, recently acquired by the Garden from Mr. James A. Weale, of the firm of Williams, Weale & Co., of Liverpool, England. These photomicrographs are all enlarged ten diameters, thus facilitating comparison. They are of very superior quality, so that many finer elements of the histology of the various woods can be demonstrated under a lens with nearly as great satisfaction as from the original sections. They possess the advantage of being less fragile than the sections themselves and of serving better than these for purposes of demonstration before classes and otherwise. The collection contains representations of practically all North American species.

By way of comparison, specimens were shown of Hough's "*American Woods*" and of Nördlinger's "*Holzquerschnitte*."

The Club adjourned at five o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. John A. Shafer has started on a collecting trip, for the New York Botanical Garden, to the West Indian island of Montserrat.

Dr. Marshall A. Howe returned to New York on January 30 from a botanical expedition to Jamaica. Six weeks were spent in collecting and studying marine algae in the vicinity of Kingston and Montego Bay.

Mr. E. S. Steele, of the United States National Museum, spent a few days, about the first of January, studying the herbarium material in the New York Botanical Garden.